

Application No. 10/679,977

Reply to Office Action mailed 18 March 2005

REMARKS

At the time of this Office Action, claims 1 - 21 were pending. Of these claims, Claims 1, 3, 11, 15 and 21 are cancelled. Claims 2, 4-10, 12, and 18-20 are amended.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner has determined that the claims as filed disclose three patentably distinct species of the invention. Applicants do not traverse this holding.

The three species are:

- A) Claims 1-11, directed at a flat LCD device with a black mask EMI layer between the front and rear glass plates;
- B) Claims 12-17, directed at a flat LCD device with a metal heater layer integral to the TFT; and
- C) Claims 18-21, directed at a flat LCD device with at least one thermal sensor integral to the TFT.

In response to the present Office Action, **the Applicant elects to restrict the present application to species B, that is, as initially presented in claims 12-17. Because of claim amendments, all pending claims now depend directly or indirectly from claim 12.**

Information Disclosure Statement

In examining the claims as to patentability, the Examiner's attention is directed to an electronic IDS filed on 25 May 2004, as well as to a hard copy IDS being filed herewith. The latter IDS discloses non-patent references that could not be filed electronically.

Claim Amendments

As a result of the amendments made above, independent claim 1 is cancelled and claim 18 now depends from claim 12.

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The Examiner will note that claim 16 and claim 1 contain the same limitations. Therefore, by canceling claims 1, 3 and 6 and by changing dependencies of claims 2, 4, 5 and 7-10, all of the remaining claims previously in species A are now in species B. Also, by making claim 18 depend from claim 12, and cancelling claim 21, all remaining claims previously in species C are now in species B.

The amendment to claim 12 is made to correct a typographical error of omitting the word "rear" in line 4 of the claim.

None of the foregoing claims are narrowing in nature.

The case is now ready for examination, which is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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